

RESEARCH NOTE

NEW POPULATIONS OF WEST INDIAN REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS IN SOUTHEASTERN FLORIDA

Several subspecies of *Anolis sagrei* have long been known to occur in Florida. Barbour (Copeia, 1931 (3): 87-88) described *Anolis stejnegeri* from Key West. Oliver (1948. Amer. Mus. Novitates, 1383: 1-36) later considered it a subspecies of *A. sagrei*. Bell (Copeia, 1953 (1): 63) reported *A. sagrei ordinatus* from Miami. Dueilman and Schwartz (1958, Bull. Florida State Mus., 3(5): 181-324), after an analysis of several characters, referred the Miami population to *A. sagrei stejnegeri*. Oliver (Copeia, 1950 (1): 55-56) reported *A. s. sagrei* from Tampa and St. Petersburg, and *A. s. ordinatus* from Lake Worth (city). Nearly every coastal city in South Florida, that is a port of entry for the steamship companies which import West Indian produce, has a population of accidentally introduced Antillean reptiles. Every population of *A. sagrei* mentioned above, with the exception of the Lake Worth population, occurs in a seaport. The Lake Worth population is the result of a successful attempt by someone to establish the species in that city. One seaport in southeastern Florida—Port of Palm Beach, at Riviera Beach—has no previously recorded population of West Indian reptiles. I visited the Port of Palm Beach on 31 January 1959 and found a colony of *Anolis sagrei* which occupied an area of approximately two city blocks immediately adjacent to the port. A series of 16 adults and juveniles were collected. Six more were collected on 26 March 1959, a series of 14 on 30 March 1959, and six on 6 September 1959. Comparison of these series with specimens of *A. sagrei* from the Bahamas, Cuba, Key West, and Miami indicate that the Riviera Beach population is *A. sagrei sagrei*. These lizards were probably introduced in shipments of fruit brought from Cuba by the West India Fruit and Steamship Company.

Leiocephalus carinatus virescens was originally reported from the vicinity of Miami by Barbour (Copeia, 1936 (2): 113). Duellman and Schwartz (*op. cit.*: 284) later reported that the Miami population of *Leiocephalus* was no longer in existence, but that a population apparently did exist in Palm Beach County, Florida (*op. cit.*: 318). This report was based, at least in part, on three specimens in

the University of Florida Collections, identified by George B. Rabb of the Chicago Zoological Park as *Leiocephalus carinatus armouri*, which occurs on the islands of the Little Bahama Bank. They were collected by me during September and November 1955, on the island of, and in the city of, Palm Beach, approximately one block south of Royal Poinciana Way on Coconut Row. No juveniles or eggs were seen at this time.

On 14 April 1959, Robert E. Woodruff, Survey Entomologist for the Florida State Plant Board, collected several adult *Leiocephalus* from the same population, and reported seeing juveniles of approximately three inches length. Local nurserymen, reported that these lizards were frequently seen on other parts of the island.

On 27 August 1959, I again visited the locality and collected six adult and juvenile specimens from the grounds of the Whitehall Museum (one-half block south of the locality that the 1955 specimens came from). On 31 August 1959, I collected five more from the same area. Although no eggs were found, small juveniles were numerous indicating a breeding population. The lizards were most abundant on the grounds of the Poinciana Chapel and the adjacent Whitehall Museum, and on the sea-wall immediately south of the museum. They were also numerous along the sidewalk fronting the Poinciana Golf Links on South County Road. Efforts were made to find the lizard on other parts of the island, but in vain. The population seemed to be bounded by Royal Poinciana Way to the north, Clarke Avenue to the south, the Atlantic Ocean to the east, and Lake Worth (intracoastal waterway) to the west. This area is approximately twenty city blocks. A crew of city nurserymen informed me that the curly-tail lizards were released in Palm Beach by the late J. N. Clarke, a pioneer resident of Palm Beach. It was stated that the lizards first appeared on Pendleton and Clarke Avenues near the Clarke home, however, no date of introduction was given.

Hyla septentrionalis was first recorded from Florida at Key West by Barbour (Copeia, 1931 (3): 140). Since that time it has been recorded from many of the Florida Keys—Stock Island (Wright and Wright, 1949, Handbook of Frogs and Toads, 3rd ed.: 338); Upper Matecumbe Key (Trapido, 1947, Herpetologica, 3(6): 190); Vaca Key (Peterson, Garrett, and Lantz, 1952, Herpetologica, 8(3): 63); Key Largo and Big Pine Key (Allen and Neill, Copeia, 1953 (2): 127-

128). Schwartz (Copeia, 1952 (2): 117) first reported *H. septentrionalis* on the mainland in Miami. Allen and Neill (*op. cit.*: 127) added Paradise Key as a mainland population. Duellman and Schwartz (*op. cit.*: 250) listed Miami as the most northern mainland locality for this species. On 26 November 1959, Dale E. Birkenholz of the Department of Biology, University of Florida, collected seven adult *H. septentrionalis* in Dania, Broward County, Florida, approximately 20 miles north of Miami. These specimens were collected at night from the plate-glass window of a store on Federal Highway (US Hwy. 1), between Northeast 2nd and 3rd Streets. Additional specimens were seen but not collected.

All of the above specimens are on deposit in the University of Florida Collections. I would like to thank George B. Rabb, Robert E. Woodruff, and Dale E. Birkenholz for the information and specimens that they supplied, and Wm. J. Riemer for his help with the manuscript.

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